

Good morning, my name is Peter Holmes and I am the City Attorney for Seattle. I am also a founding member of Prosecutors Against Gun Violence.

In my role as City Attorney I have had the opportunity to support commonsense gun laws and work in partnership with King County to develop a leading national model for firearm surrender with domestic violence and extreme risk protection orders. We know that sensible gun laws, when implemented per their intent, will reduce injury and death in our state.

I am here today to ask you to take the reasonable step that your colleagues in the Senate have already done and pass the commonsense gun policy, ESB 5992 to close the machine gun loophole by preventing the sale of bump stocks.

Before last October, many of us had never heard of bump stocks. But now we all know what they do. They make legal semi-automatic weapons perform like illegal fully automatic machine guns.

Devices like bump stocks have no place in our society. It is time, past time, for us to draw the line. Machine guns have one purpose, to kill humans. They are weapons of war that should not be in civilian hands. If bump stocks remain legal in WA State we are sending the message to our communities that devices that turn legal guns into illegal killing machines are more important than the dozens of lives lost in Los Vegas due to the sheer number of rounds the perpetrator was able to fire in a matter of seconds.

We know there are many people in WA State who have been impacted by the Las Vegas shooting, one family here today who paid the ultimate price - lost their daughter. I know as an elected official sometimes doing the right thing can feel politically dangerous. In this case doing the right thing and passing ESB5992 is not only safe politically, you owe it to the communities you serve to reflect their desire for commonsense gun laws.

Thank you very much.